

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 18659 210941Z
ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18659

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: FUKUDA CONSIDERING US VISIT

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS, TAKEO FUKUDA WISHES TO MEET
WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AT AN EARLY DATE IN WASHINGTON.
IF VISIT TO US INCONVENIENT, FUKUDA WOULD BE AMENABLE TO
US-JAPAN SUMMIT MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH POSSIBLE
DEVELOPED NATIONS' LEADERS' SUMMIT.

1. ACCORDING TO DECEMBER 21 PRESS TAKEO FUKUDA, WHO IS
CERTAIN TO SUCCEED TAKEO MIKI AS PRIME MINISTER ON DECEMBER 24,
DESIRES TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AFTER BECOMING PRIME MINISTER IN ORDER TO HOLD TALKS
WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TOPICS. FUKUDA IS SAID TO CONSIDER
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES INSEPARABLE FROM POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION DEPENDENT UPON
CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US. NO SPECIFIC DATES
HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN THE PRESS, WHICH NOTES THAT
ARRANGEMENTS LIKELY TO BE MADE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS.

2. AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FUKUDA BELIEVES THAT
IF IT WERE INCONVENIENT TO VISIT THE US AT AN EARLY
DATE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH
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PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AT ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY SUCH AS
SUMMIT MEETING OF DEVELOPED NATIONS' LEADERS.

3. COMMENT: FOREGOING WAS SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED
AS BEING IN LINE WITH FUKUDA'S PRESENT THINKING BY
A FUKUDA CONFIDANT DECEMBER 21, WHO ADDED THAT JAPAN'S

PROBLEMS WITH THE EC WERE INSOLUBLE WITHOUT CLOSE
CONSULTATION WITH THE US. CONFIDANT ALSO CONFIRMED
THAT FUKUDA WOULD NOT BE "STICKY" ABOUT (I.E., INSIST ON) HOLDING
ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JAPAN. IMPORTANT POINT HE SAID, WAS FOR FUKUDA
TO MEET PRESIDENT-ELECT AS SOON AS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT.
HODGSON

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